

**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HQ AIR INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**



**AIR INTELLIGENCE AGENCY MISSION  
DIRECTIVE 1551**

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***Intelligence***

**97TH INTELLIGENCE SQUADRON**

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**1. Mission.** The 97th Intelligence Squadron (97 IS) conducts airborne reconnaissance to satisfy customer intelligence needs by providing quality training, support, and services. This organization is an intelligence squadron subordinate to the 67th Intelligence Group, 67th Intelligence Wing (67 IW), and the Air Intelligence Agency (AIA).

**2. Command.** The 97 IS Commander:

- 2.1. Is responsible to the Commander (67 IW/CC) for administration.
- 2.2. Is responsible to the Commander, 55th Operations Group (55 OG/CC), for operational control.
- 2.3. Commands the personnel of the 97 IS and Operating Location-Tactical Tinker.
- 2.4. Conducts worldwide airborne reconnaissance in support of combat, contingency, and peacetime operations. The 97 IS manages information operations collection and systems maintenance positions on the RC-135 RIVET JOINT (RJ), COMBAT SENT (CS), COBRA BALL, and E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft of the Air Combat Command. The 97 IS also manages two separate specialized laboratories. One lab employs new technologies designed to evaluate electromagnetic phenomena. The other lab calibrates the CS's primary sensor, updates and installs the electronic order of battle on board the RJ and CS, and analyzes mission data. In addition, the 97 IS provides a logistics support infrastructure, conducts agency-wide maintenance training, and serves as AIA logistics hub for worldwide RC-135 operations.

**3. Responsibilities.** The 97 IS:

- 3.1. Equips, trains, and employs intelligence and logistics personnel for worldwide airborne reconnaissance.

3.2. On order, deploys personnel to provide near real-time air situation updates and threat data to the air control elements and intelligence structure of the air component commander while meeting applicable national-level collection tasking.

3.3. Provides personnel to support:

3.3.1. United States Central Command, United States Atlantic Command, United States Pacific Command, United States European Command, and the Defense Special Missile and Astronautics Center tasking for PONY EXPRESS operations.

3.3.2. Maintains all airborne and ground equipment and performs system modifications.

JAMES J. ROMANO, Colonel, USAF  
Director of Plans and Programs